

AQUATIC WEEDS

Aquatic plant pests are usually nonnative plant species that are often invasive and highly competitive and crowd out native plants. This can reduce habitat for fish and wildlife, retard water flow and limit recreational uses.



The following is the list of Montana Aquatic Noxious Weeds:

- Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
- Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
- Yellowflag Iris (*Iris pseudoacorus*)
- Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*)

Aquatic plant species of concern:

- Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)

For more information on aquatic weeds see:

<http://agr.mt.gov/weedpest/aquatics.asp>

The MDA recommends that landowners ask these questions before hiring someone to control pests on their property:

- ***Do you have a commercial pesticide applicator license and what is your license number? A business license alone is not sufficient.***
- ***Do you have liability insurance or a bond to cover pesticide damage?***
- ***What category of pesticide license do you hold?***
- ***Do you have references?***
- ***Are there any special precautions that I need to take after or during the pesticide application?***

READ THE LABEL....

Before you buy, apply, and before you dispose of or store the pesticide read the label. Assume that the product you intend to use is labeled for the site and is registered for use in Montana. Many aquatic labels require that the local, state, or tribal fish and game agency be consulted prior to application. The consultation is required to ensure that the chemicals will be applied in such a manner to ensure that adverse impacts are minimized. If you have further questions regarding the pesticide label, contact the Montana Department of Agriculture.



**Remember
THE LABEL IS THE LAW!**

CONTACT US

Montana Department of Agriculture

(406) 444-5400

Licensing (406) 444-4900

Aquatic Weeds (406) 444-7819

<http://agr.mt.gov>



Department of Environmental Quality

Water Protection Bureau

308 Authorization

(406) 444-3080

<http://www.deq.mt.gov>

Montana Department of Fish,

Wildlife, & Parks

(406) 444-2449

<http://fwp.mt.gov>



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AQUATIC WEED MANAGEMENT IN MONTANA

308 AUTHORIZATION
PESTICIDE LICENSING
AQUATIC WEEDS

A cooperative effort to educate the public on aquatic weed species and their management.

AQUATIC PLANTS AS PART OF A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM

Benefits of aquatic plants include:

- **Food:** Aquatic plants provide important food sources for waterfowl, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.
- **Habitat:** Aquatic plants provide important living space for aquatic insects, snails, amphibians, fish, and crustaceans.
- **Cover:** Young fish and amphibians will use aquatic plants as a source of cover from predatory fish and birds. This, coupled with the abundant food supply, makes aquatic plants important nurseries for baby fish, frogs, and salamanders.
- **Erosion control:** Submersed and emergent plants protect shorelines from erosion and help stabilize sediment, in turn increasing water clarity.
- **Nutrient cycling:** Aquatic plants play an important role in facilitating nutrient cycling. They influence the supply of oxygen and take-up nutrients normally used by algae, thus improving water clarity.



Problems associated with aquatic plants:

Two problems associated with aquatic plants are increased nutrient loads and the introduction of nonnative aquatic species. Increased nutrient loads cause an increase in aquatic plants and algae. This increase causes the natural process of lake aging to accelerate. Sources of increased nutrients include septic systems, fertilizer run-off, and urban and agricultural waste.

The introduction of nonnative species in aquatic systems causes native species to decline, in turn impacting the benefits aquatic plants provide. Nonnative plants are introduced by recreational users transporting them from water body to water body and the dumping of aquarium plants in water bodies. Exotic species are often very aggressive and will crowd out the more desirable native vegetation.



308 AUTHORIZATION

Montana water quality standards require state waters to be free from toxic or harmful substances to aquatic life. The 308 Authorization allows a short-term exemption from these water quality standards to apply pesticides to a state water body. **State waters** are defined as a body of water, irrigation system, or drainage system, either surface or underground.

308 Exemptions

An individual applying pesticides to an irrigation conveyance for routine maintenance activities is exempt from applying for a 308 Authorization under the Montana Water Quality Act. The exemption only applies to irrigation conveyances that do not re-enter state water. However, individuals conducting such activities must be in compliance with Montana Pesticides Act as administered by Montana Department of Agriculture.

Application Process

To acquire a 308 Authorization, an applicant must submit a 308 Authorization form, supplemental information form, and an application fee of \$250.00 to:

Water Protection Bureau
308 Authorization
Department of Environmental Quality
1520 E Sixth Ave
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620

Processing time for 308 Authorization is 30 - 60 days. To ensure timely processing, please be sure to fill out forms completely and provide necessary signatures. Additional material may be required depending on scope and complexity of project.

Short-term authorizations do not exceed one year from date of issuance. Applicants must re-apply annually. For application forms and further information visit: <http://www.deq.mt.gov> Or call Department of Environmental Quality: (406) 444-3080

AQUATIC PESTICIDE LICENSE

Any person in the business of applying pesticides for another must obtain a pesticide applicator license from the Montana Department of Agriculture. (Title 80-8-203 MCA)

The Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) oversees the licensing and training of aquatic pesticide applicators in Montana. The commercial/governmental application of herbicides in or over water requires a license. Applicators, including private landowners, who intend to treat waters with state restricted-use aquatic herbicides such as xylene, acrolein, or endothall, must attend a special aquatic training session and pass an Aquatic Pest Control Exam for initial certification. Commercial applicators must have an Aquatic Endorsement on their license.

All pesticides products must be registered for use with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and with the state of Montana. This includes

aquatic herbicides and algaecides. To determine what products are available for use, consult with your local extension office, your pesticide dealer or the Montana Department of Agriculture.

